

individual conductor to hold the conductor fixed in the housing such that the conductive clip electrically joins each conductor of the two or more incoming wires; and

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a conductive extension in shorting electrical engagement with the clip and extending through a housing wall to an exterior of the housing, at least a portion of the extension on the exterior of the housing being electrically conductive.

Amend claim 7 to read as follows:

7. (Three times amended) A method of electrically connecting two or more wires having conductors to a common terminus, comprising the steps of providing a push-in wire connector having a conductive clip inside an insulative housing, providing a conductive extension electrically shorted to the clip and extending to an exterior of the housing, pushing stripped ends of the conductors of the first and second wires into the housing and into engagement with the clip, and electrically connecting the extension to said terminus.

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Amend claim 8 to read as follows:

8. (Three times amended) A method of electrically connecting two or more wires having conductors to a common terminus, comprising the steps of providing an insulation displacement connector having a conductive clip inside an insulative housing, providing a conductive extension electrically shorted to the clip and extending to an exterior of the housing, placing first and second wires adjacent the clip, closing the housing to force the wires' conductors into engagement with the clip, and electrically connecting the extension to said terminus.

REMARKS

The courtesy of the Examiner in conducting a telephone interview on June 20, 2002 with the undersigned is noted and appreciated. At the interview the proposed claim amendments contained herein were discussed, as was Smith 5,453,021, the reference cited in the